

**Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form**

Application No.: 10/538,250 First Named Applicant: Kristensen  
 Examiner: Price Art Unit: 3753 Status of Application: under final rejection

**Tentative Participants:**

(1) examiner Price (2) attorney Abel  
 (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Date of Interview: 13 November 2009 Proposed Time: 9:00 (AM/PM)

**Type of Interview Requested:**

(1) ☒ Telephonic (2) ☐ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES

If yes, provide brief description: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ NO

**Issues To Be Discussed**

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>rej. §102</u>	<u>1, 5, 6, 8, 9</u>	<u>Eagles</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) _____	<u>11, 13, 15-16</u>	<u>(4, 315, 533)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☒ Continuation Sheet Attached

☐ Proposed Amendment or Arguments Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

See continuation sheet and proposed  
claim amendments (new claims)

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTE:** This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature

Christian D. Abel

Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

43, 455

Registration Number, if applicable

Examiner/SPE Signature

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Continuation sheet

The applicant intends to discuss the following proposed new claims in relation to the Eagles reference cited by the examiner. The new claims are believed novel over Eagles

Eagles does not disclose a spiral pipe section wherein the spiral section is arranged to have an inherent capacity for spring-like compression and extension, and that the longitudinal compensation of length is effected by this spring-like compression and extension of the spiral rather than by swivel joints. Eagles discloses straight pipe sections connected by swivel joints in a "lazy tongs" arrangement. The new claims specifically disclaim the use of such swivel joints.

Swivel joints as taught by Eagles are a weak point in a fluid transport system, requiring constant maintenance and increasing the risk of leakage, especially in the case of the transport of cryogenic fluids. It is not believed obvious to one skilled in the art of transferring fluids between movable structures that rigid pipe sections could be arranged in a non-articulating spiral such that the spiral itself would act as a length compensator due to spring-like compression.

Authorization to communicate by e-mail

The undersigned hereby authorizes the examiner to communicate with the applicant at the following e-mail address for the purposes of scheduling dates for this interview, and any other similar administrative purpose.

chris.abel@onsagers.no

A different date than the date indicated in the attached Interview Request form may be suggested by the examiner at his convenience. Because of the time difference, however, it is requested that the interview be conducted at 9:00 AM EST.

## PROPOSED CLAIMS FOR DISCUSSION AT INTERVIEW

18. A system for transferring fluid between two structures movable relative to each other, comprising:

- a. a crane pedestal adapted for mounting on a first structure,
- b. an offloading arm in the form of a crane boom rotatable about the crane pedestal in the horizontal plane and further moveable in the vertical plane,
- c. a trolley attached to the crane boom, said trolley being movable along the length of the crane boom, said trolley comprising a connection member having a universal joint adapted for connection to a receiving terminal on a second structure,
- d. a fluid-conveying pipe extending from the first structure along the crane boom and connected to the trolley, said fluid-conveying pipe having an arrangement for compensating for the longitudinal movement of the trolley,
- e. wherein said compensating arrangement comprises a section of substantially rigid pipe arranged along the crane boom in a spiral, the axis of said spiral being arranged parallel to the longitudinal axis of the crane boom, the pipe being made of a material of sufficient rigidity that the pipe section will maintain its spiral shape and parallel relationship with the crane boom under the combined weight of the pipe itself and its fluid contents, but also having sufficient flexibility that the spiral section exhibits the capacity for springing-like compression and extension,
- f. and further wherein the longitudinal compensation is effected by a springing action of the spiral pipe section and not by the use of articulating or swivel joints in the spiral section.

19. A fluid transfer system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the structures is a ship.

20. A fluid transfer system according to claim 18 or 19, wherein the fluid is LNG.

21. A fluid transfer system according to claim 18, further comprising a crane column attached to the crane pedestal by slewing mechanism that provides rotating of the crane column relative to the crane pedestal in vertical axis relative to the platform, and wherein the crane boom is

rotatable connected at essentially one end to the crane column by a hinged arrangement and wherein a winch and wire assembly operate to raise and lower the crane boom.

22. A fluid transfer system according to claim 18, wherein the connection member of the trolley comprises hinge joints connected to a cone, the cone adapted to mate with a landing skirt of a rotating table of the receiving terminal of the second structure.

23. A fluid transfer system according to claim 18, wherein the connection member of the trolley comprises hinge joints connected to a pin, the pin adapted to mate with a landing skirt of a rotating table of the receiving terminal of the second structure.

24. A fluid transfer system according to claim 18 wherein the length of the spiral section is predetermined to permit a the expected degree of longitudinal movement